

Ethnolinguistic Groups Comparison Critical Essay

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The three ethnolinguistic groups that we are going to use are as follows: Tagalog, Eskaya, and Zamboangueño.

The similarities between the group mentioned is that majority of its people adhere to a Christian Denomination. The difference between Eskaya and the other ethnolinguistic groups is that the Eskaya people mostly adhere to the Philippine Independent Church while the other ethnolinguistic groups that would be discussed mostly consists of Roman Catholics. It should be noted that none of the chosen ethnolinguistic groups have a mostly Muslim population.

The Tagalog people speak the Tagalog language, the Eskaya people speak the Eskayan language, while the Zamboangueño people speak the Chavacano language.

Tagalog nobles would wear the *barong tagalog* for men and the *baro't saya* for women. When the Philippines became independent, the barong Tagalog became popularized as the national costume of the country, as the wearers were the majority in the new capital, Manila.

Eskaya men would wear shirts made of piña raffia with a Chinese-style collar, black breeches, and cotton berets. Women wore piña dresses with bulging sleeves like the Spanish-influenced Boholano style (mostly in Biabas) and covered their hair with cotton habits (mostly in Taytay). Traditionally, women were not permitted to cut their hair short nor wear trousers and drinking and dancing were universally prohibited. For the most part these customs have been discontinued, however traditional dress is sometimes worn on Sundays and special occasions.

Zamboangueño traditional costumes are closely associated with Spanish formal dress. Men wear close-necked jackets as they called *camiseta Zamboangueña*, *de bastón* pants, and European style shoes, complete with the de-rigueur *bigotillos* (mustache). Zamboangueño women claim ownership of the *mascota*, a formal gown with a fitting bodice, her shoulders draped demurely by a luxuriously embroidered, though stiff, *pañuelo* and fastened at the breast by a brooch or a medal. The skirt tapers down from the waist but continues to an extended trail called the *cola*. The *cola* may be held on one hand as the lady walks around, or it may likewise be pinned on the waist or slipped up a cord (belt) that holds the dainty *abanico* or purse. The traditional Zamboangueño dress has been limited to formal functions, replaced by the more common shirt, denim jeans, and sneakers for men, and shirts, blouses, skirts or pants, and heeled shoes for women.

The Eskaya community has been the object of ongoing controversy, particularly with regards to its status as an indigenous group and the classification of the Eskayan language. Intense speculation in the 1980s and 1990s on the part of journalists and lay historians generated several theories that continue to be elaborated without resolution. However, controversies such as whether the ethnolinguistic group is really an ethnolinguistic group is not existent for the other ethnolinguistic groups shown. One reason for this is because the other ethnolinguistic groups are groups that consist of a bigger amount of people; there are 30 million Tagalog people, 3.5 million Zamboangueño people but only 2,285 Eskaya people.

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